

Remarks

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled and Claims 21 and 22 have been added to cover aspects of Applicants' invention not disclosed or suggested by the references.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 ("Dural").

KWR shows a "kinetic water ram unit" where a water ram has a cylinder of air that is pumped to compress the air in the cylinder. ("1. Pump Up"). The other end of a hose attached to the cylinder is inserted into the opening of a drain that is clogged. ("2. Insert in Drain"). A trigger on the cylinder is pressed to released the compressed air in the cylinder, which flows through the hose into the opening to the drain, hopefully unclogging the drain. ("3. Snap Trigger").

The KWR device uses compressed air to unclog a drain. When the trigger is pressed on the KWR device the compressed air is released. As it expands into the tube and the drain its pressure falls. Depending on the location of the clog in the drain line, the pressure may fall so much that it is too low to unclog the drain. Moreover, there is only a single burst of air, which lasts a very short time before its pressure dissipates.

Applicants' device uses pressurized water to unclog the line, not compressed air. Water is uncompressible (except slightly at very high pressures). Thus, pressurized water is not compressed, but is maintained under a constant pressure. The clog is not subjected to a sudden shock of air under pressure, but to water flowing under a

constant pressure. The pressure at a clog in the KWR device increases very suddenly, then is gone just as quickly. The pressure at a clog in Applicants' device builds up slowly as the water is turned on and flows down to the clog; thereafter the pressure at the clog is maintained at the pressure of the water until the clog is cleared.

The inventor of the KWR device desires a high pressure, quickly dissipating "shock" to dislodge the clog. Note that the inventor of the KWR device claims that 98% of the energy in the compressed air is transmitted directly to the clog at a speed of approximately 4,700 ft/sec. That type of shock is not produced by Applicants' device. Thus, it is not obvious to substitute water for the air in the KWR device because the shock that the KWR inventor is trying to produce would not occur. However, because Applicants use flowing water, their device removes the clog from the system once it has been dislodged; the KWR device may not do this because the air pressure (over atmospheric pressure) will fall to zero as soon the clog is dislodged. The clog may be simply moved farther down the line, requiring additional shocks, each weaker than the preceding shock, in order to move it all the way out of the system.

Dural shows an apparatus for clearing plugged pipes using water pressure. As the Examiner acknowledges, Dural fails to show a variety of stopper sizes that can be used to unplug pipes of various diameters. The Examiner argues that it would be obvious to use the KWR stoppers in the Dural apparatus. Applicants do not agree.

The KWR stoppers are ordinary stoppers, each a truncated cone with an aperture of uniform diameter therethrough, the same kind of inexpensive stoppers that

Applicants use in their invention. Dural, however, uses a specially constructed stopper. The Dural stopper (number 19 in Figures 4 and 8) has a large uniform diameter through it, a diameter that is not much less than the diameter of the stopper itself. The reason the Dural stopper is so made is that Dural contemplates the use of his device to clean toilets (column 3, line 5, and Figure 1) and he does not want the user to have to hold the stopper against the drain inside a stopped-up toilet. He specifically states (column 5, lines 35 to 48) that the user grips valve 14 or handles (not shown) so the user can apply his weight and better form a seal (column 5, lines 47 to 48).

Dural provides a pipe 24 that connects to his specially constructed stopper so that the user can provide considerable force against the stopper without putting his hands into a stopped-up toilet. In Figure 4, Dural's pipe 24 is fitted into seal 19 which has "an inner tubular wall" (column 4, line 50) of annular support bracket 19a at the end so that the force applied to pipe 24 can be transmitted to the periphery of scaling face 19b. In Figure 8, Dural shows an alternative arrangement where rigid plastic bushing 18 is used to transmit force applied to pipe 24 to the periphery of seal 19.

The force the user applies to pipe 24 must be transmitted to the rim of the stopper because, if it is applied near the center of the stopper, the stopper will be dented inward under the force, which may break the seal. For that reason, Dural could not use inexpensive stoppers that each have the same small diameter aperture through the center, as used by KWR and Applicants. If he did, then for the larger stoppers, the distance between the edge of the stopper and where the force of pipe 24 is applied to

the center of the stopper would be so great that the center of the stopper would be pushed inward, breaking the seal.

Since Dural wishes to apply the force of conduit 24 near the periphery of the stopper, he would have to use a variety of stopper sizes where each stopper had a different diameter aperture through its center. He would then have to provide sleeves or brackets having a variety of diameters which would greatly add to his cost. For these reasons, it is not obvious to use the stoppers of KWR with the apparatus of Dural. Also, it is not clear that Dural's stopper, sleeve, bushing, and pipe can be easily disassembled so that stoppers of different sizes could be used.

Please further note that Applicants' rigid conduit can be inserted into either end of the aperture through Applicants' stoppers. As Applicants describe in their specification and illustrate in Figure 8, this enables the larger stoppers to be used to clean drains and the like, where the opening is not easily accessible. The Dural pipe 24, with its sleeve and bushing, is not intended to be used in that manner, nor does Dural suggest it. (See Applicants' new Claim 22).

Applicants have amended their Claims 1, 15, and 18 to better describe the stoppers they use and the interface between their stoppers and the rigid conduit. Applicants' claims now more clearly distinguish over the Dural apparatus.

Applicants are already selling the kits claimed in the above-identified patent application and have achieved considerable commercial success. Enclosed herewith are four copies of reviews/articles from leading boating magazines, a full-color pamphlet

describing the kit and its use, and four examples of orders for the kit. As the Examiner is no doubt aware, commercial success is a good indicia of unobviousness.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 and in further view of '801. KWR and '589 (Dural) have been discussed. The '801 reference was cited to show that a flexible hose can be made into a 90-degree angle. Claim 2 has been amended to more precisely cover Applicants' invention as shown in Figure 6. The 90° elbow is comprised of a rigid L-shaped tube and a flexible tube. The '801 reference does not show the structure now claimed in Applicants' Claim 2. A flexible 90° elbow would not work well for unplugging a thru-hull that has an attached sea strainer (see Claim 21) because the flexible elbow would tend to kink, restricting the flow of water through it, and it would be difficult to hold the stopper against the thru-hull.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 and in further view of '777. KWR and '589 (Dural) have been discussed. The '777 reference was cited to show a clear plastic container. As to this rejection, Applicants will rely upon their above comments concerning KWR and Dural.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 and in further view of '743. KWR and '589 (Dural) have been discussed. The '743 reference was cited to show that parts of a plumbing system can be made of either PVC or polyamide. As to this rejection, Applicants will rely upon their above comments concerning KWR and Dural.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of

'589 and in further view of Frankel. KWR and '589 (Dural) have been discussed.

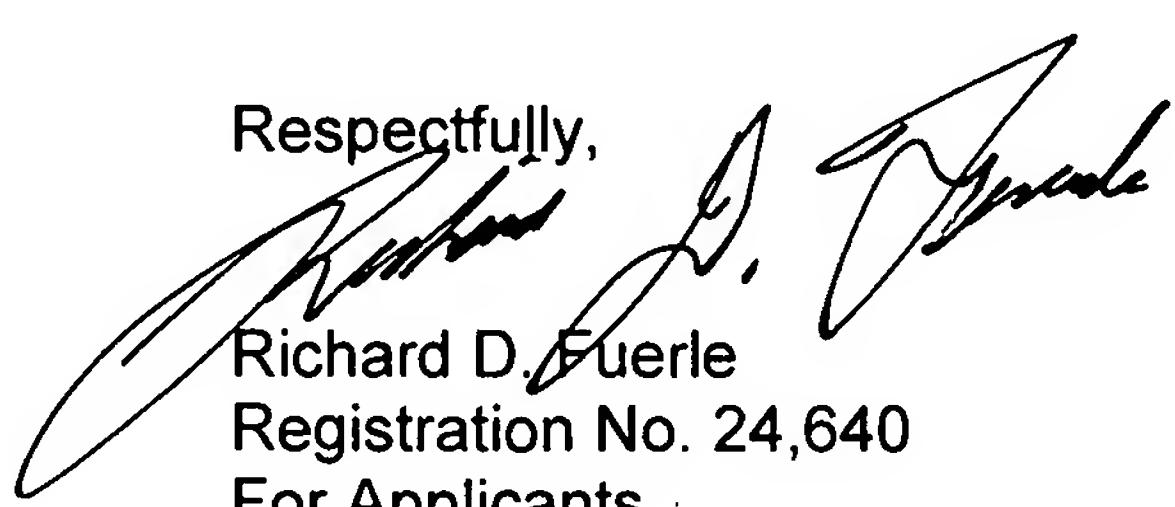
Frankel was cited to show the pressure in a water outlet. As to this rejection, Applicants will rely upon their above comments concerning KWR and Dural.

Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 and in further view of HRM. Claim 8 has been canceled. KWR and '589 (Dural) have been discussed. HRM was cited to show stoppers of different sizes. As to this rejection, Applicants will rely upon their above comments concerning KWR and Dural.

Claims 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KWR in view of '589 and in further view of '801, '777, and '743. As to this rejection, Applicants will rely upon their above comments concerning the cited art. Please note that Claim 18 incorporates newly-amended Claim 2.

All of the claims are now believed to be allowable over the references cited and reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are therefore requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at (716) 774-0091 to resolve any remaining problems.

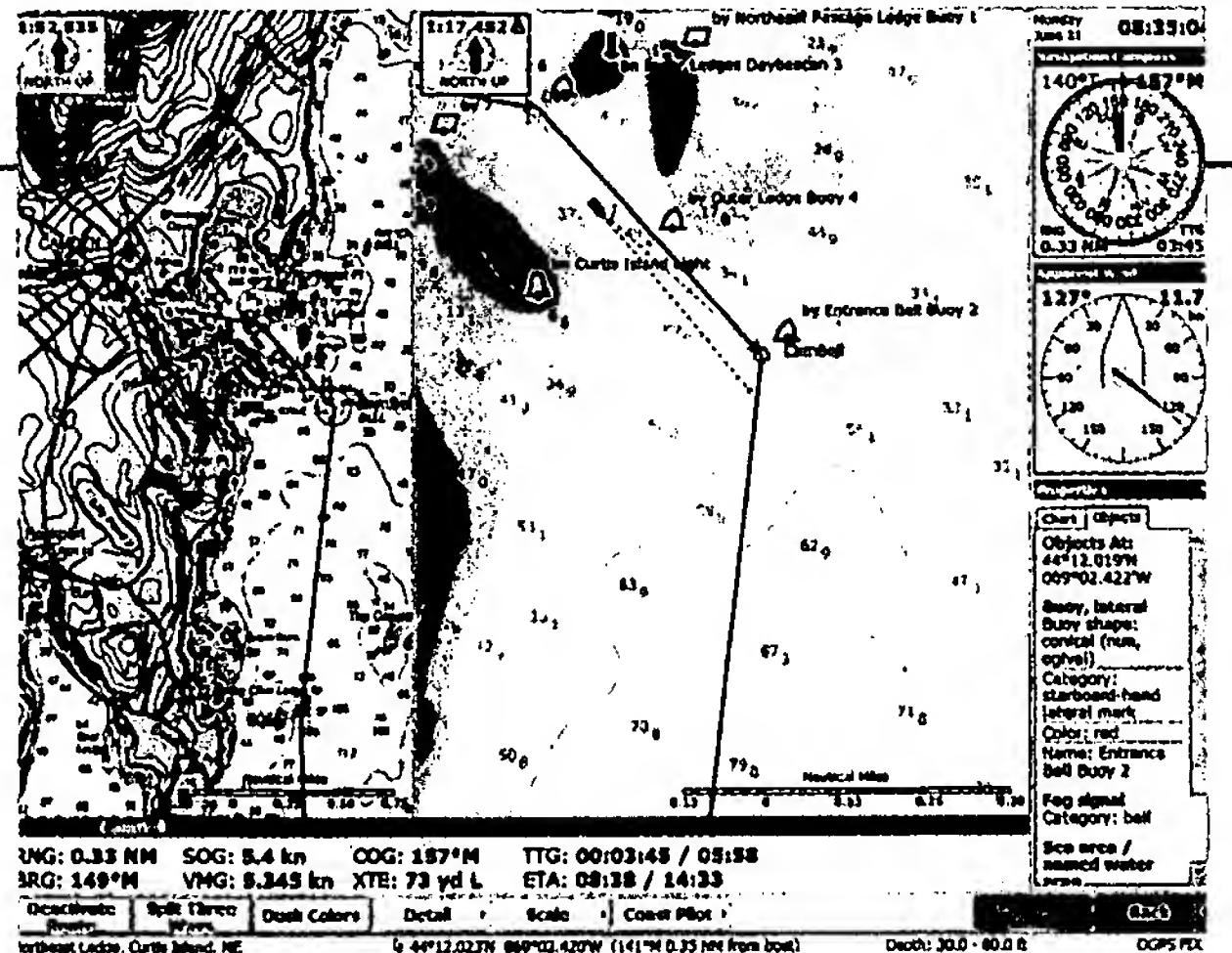
Respectfully,


Richard D. Fuerle
Registration No. 24,640
For Applicants

Richard D. Fuerle
1711 West River Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
(716)-774-0091
July 27, 2007
CASE JB01

Power charting

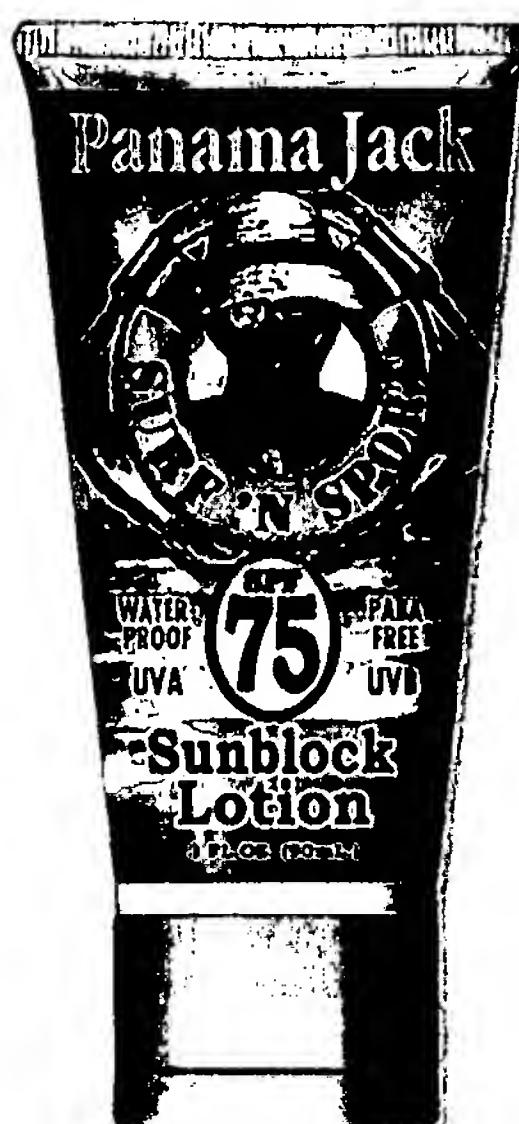
Coastal Explorer is a humdinger of a new PC charting program. It's remarkably fast and bug free for 1.0 software, deftly handles most raster-chart flavors as well as free NOAA vector ENCs, and has planning and underway interfaces that I find both comprehensive and comprehensible. Even the most curmudgeonly of traditional pencil-and-paper navigators will likely be impressed with this \$300 program's unique integration of Coast Pilot and gazetteer data, plus other features too numerous to list. **Rose Point Navigation**; 425-765-2976; www.rosepointnav.com



Shade in a tube

Panama Jack purports to use a patented process to achieve the highest level of protection ever achieved in a sunblock lotion. Surf 'N Sport SPF 75 (3 ounces for \$9) is also waterproof and "designed to blend easily into skin with minimal rub-in." While it actually took some vigorous rub-in on my freckled hide, the stuff seemed to work noticeably better than other gunks I've tried. But remember—as my dermatologist never fails to note—no sunblock is a complete substitute for protective clothing.

Panama Jack; 800-932-2431; www.panamajack.com

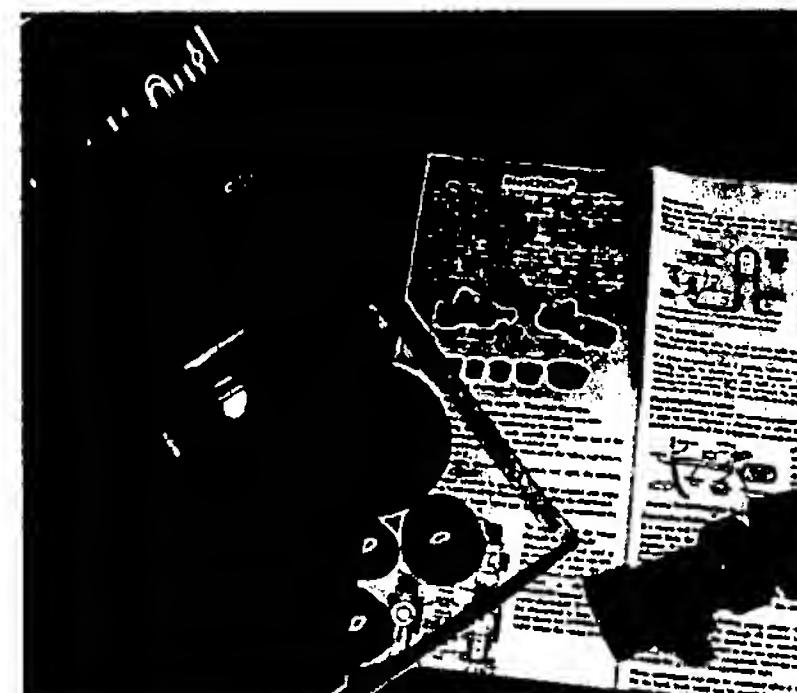


Tidy wires

ZipSleeve is a 24' tube designed to discipline the multiple shore cables that may currently snake chaotically from your boat to a dock pedestal or lie tangled in your lazaret. It's 4" in diameter and made of UV-treated nylon fabric with marine-grade plastic zippers. Velcro tabs spaced every 15" let you hang your

freshly sheaved cable bundle on a stanchion or whatever. The extra-long end tab shown is for restraining excess wire. The \$30 ZipSleeve is

available in six colors. **ZipSleeve**; 800-808-8711; www.zipsleeve.com



Blow out

The BlastItOut clog-clearing and -flushing kit may look like a bag of bits you could collect at a hardware store, but just try to find all those rubber stoppers. Plus you get well-illustrated instructions on how to use the parts, along with your pressure water system or a dock hose, to blow debris out of your seacock, head lines, raw-water inlets, and so on. The \$30 kit can also be used to flush fresh water through your systems via a seacock when you haul out. **BlastItOut**; 941-268-1469; www.blastitout.com

Traveling duffel

Gill has added inline-skate wheels and a zipped-in extractable handle to its Jumbo Wet 'n' Dry Bag. The resulting \$126 Wheel Bag weighs less than 10 pounds but holds 29 gallons of gear. Seamanlike features include a large wet compartment, a mesh drainage pocket, a waterproof bottom, and an integral shoulder strap for those situations where you can't skate. **Gill North America**; 800-822-6504; www.gillna.com



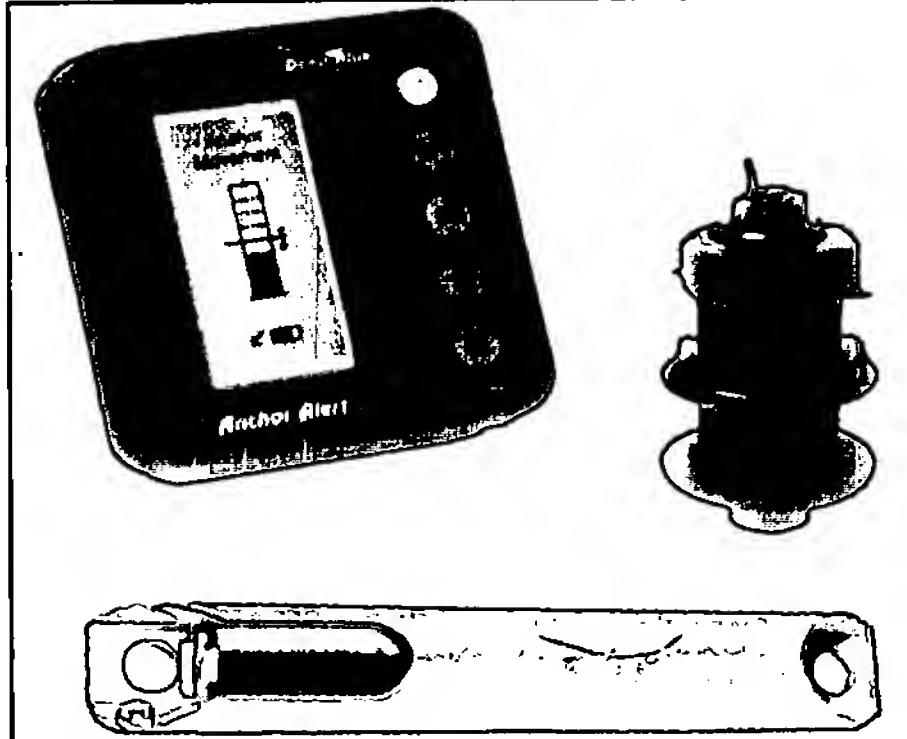
At the Chandalerry

If you call these folks, be sure and tell 'em you saw their stuff here in Lats&Atts. That way we can con 'em into sending us big bucks to advertise, and then we get to add more pages. Neat, huh!



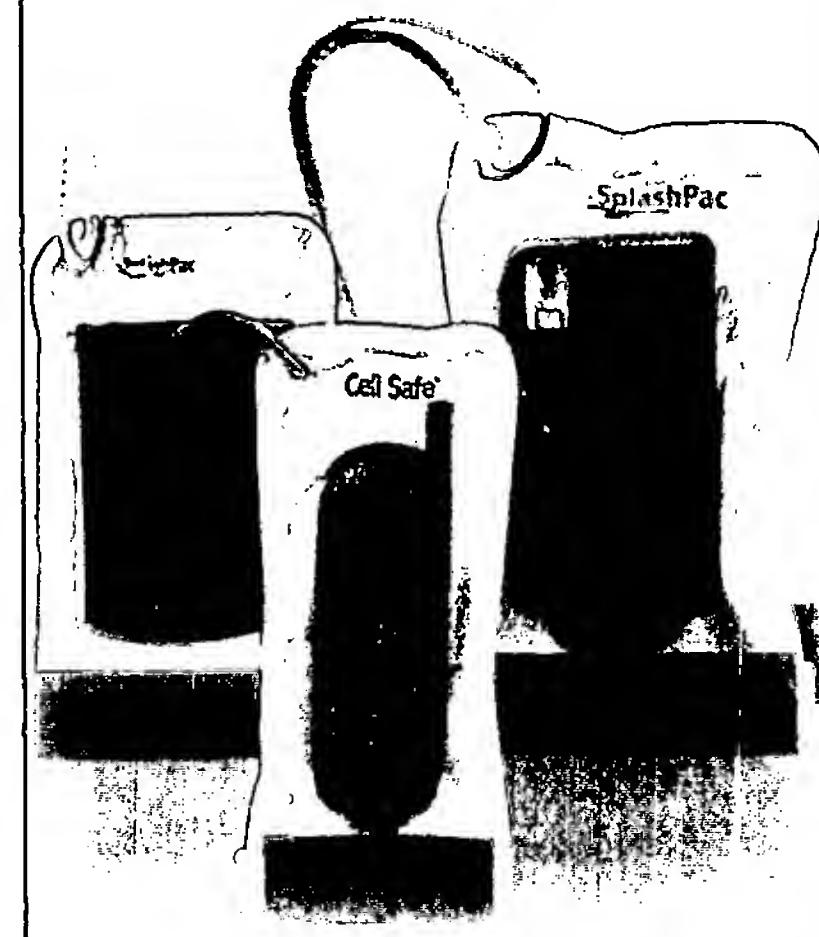
A Wine Wetsuit???

Well, you don't have to take it diving, but it will help you get your bottle of wine, or any other beverage, safely to wherever you're going. The Neoprene clink-proof, insulated bag is very easy to carry. Come serving time, just peel back the handles and pour right from the bag. There's also a two-bottle version for the extra thirsty. They're made by Built NY™ and available at stores nationwide. For more info go to www.BuiltNY.com or call 845-351-2611.



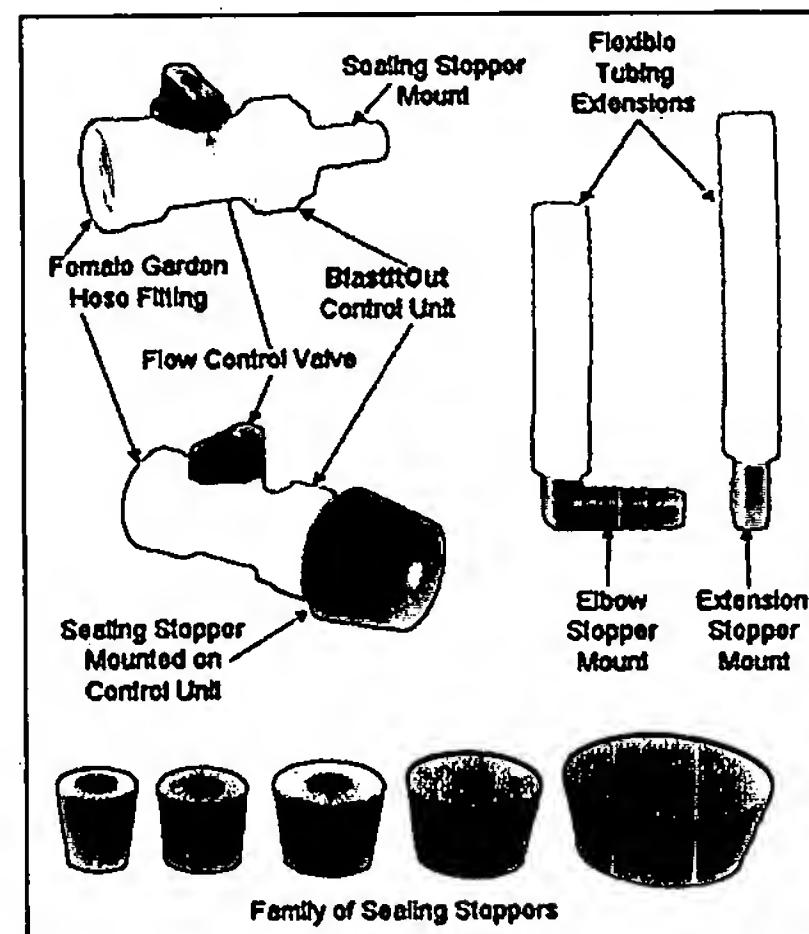
Kind of a Drag

Tired of guessing whether your anchor is holding or not? I mean, maybe you're not in the same spot, but is it due to that pesky windshift, current, tide change, or are you really dragging? Well, now you don't have to guess. The Anchor Alert System consists of a movement detection transponder attached between the anchor and anchor chain. When the anchor moves, it transmits to an onboard transducer. The motion is calculated and given a severity level of one to eight, which is shown as a bar graph on the boat display. An alarm goes off when the movement exceeds the severity level you choose. The system also tells you how far your boat is from the anchor! Contact Ascend Marine Inc., at 865-671-1000 or www.ascendmarine.com.



Make a Splash

Go ahead. It won't hurt as long as you've got your cell phone, camera, GPS, etc., in a SplashPac. It has a simple snap and roll seal to keep out water, sand and dirt. There are eight sizes to fit most everything, and you can use most devices while inside the case. To order, just call 1-877-CELLSAFE (1-877-235-5723).



Have a Blast

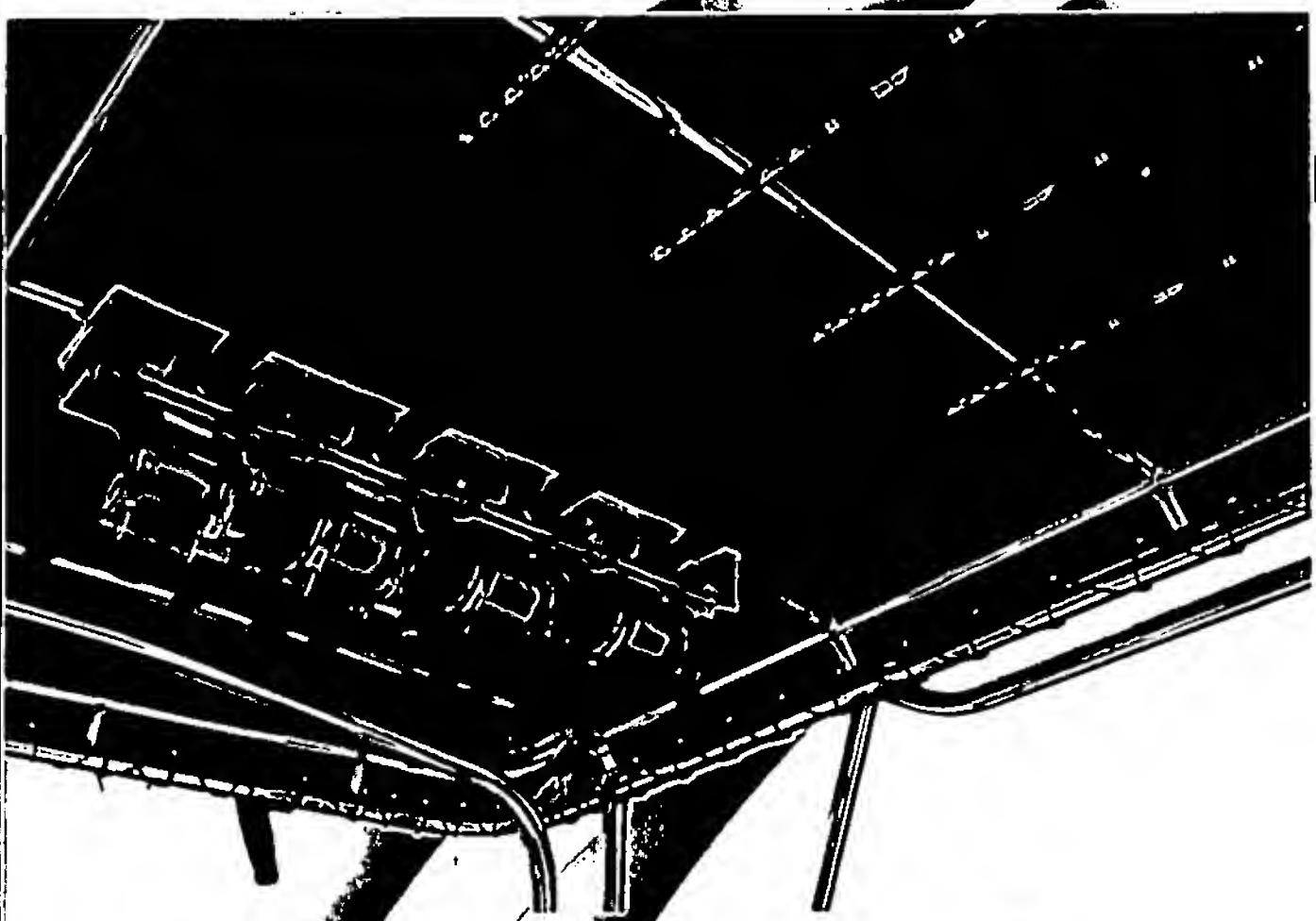
Got that plugged-up feeling? Then you need Blast It Out! This very kewl Clog-Clearing & Flushing Kit provides everything you need to clear thru hulls, waste lines, sinks, drains, etc., from inside your vessel, using your pressurized water system or a dockside connection. It's simple and no mess! Contact Info@BlastItOut.com or call 1-941-268-1469.



Fancy Footwork

Wanna put your best foot forward? Well then, how about doing it in one of these, the new Aqua Tech Shoes 956. They're designed for durability and comfort, with an adjustable Velcro strap for maximum support. The wrap-around, non-marking natural rubber sole provides a great grip. They're made by Gill and available at all the usual marine retailers, or visit www.gillna.com.

NEW GEAR SHOWCASE



LET YOUR RODS KNOW YOU CARE -

Rods and reels in their tuna tower rod holders look like functional works of art as they glisten in the sun, enhancing a sportfisherman's fine lines. They're also an attractive target for thieves when you pull up at a marina or waterfront restaurant. The Gorilla Locking Rod Rack was designed to cradle rods safely whether mounted vertically or overhead. The marine-grade aluminum unit body further protects your beauties by holding the reels in such a way that there is no access to the reel mounting hardware, while a steel locking bar prevents unauthorized removal of the entire rod/reel combination. Priced from \$129. Bowline Products; (561) 276-0058; www.gorillarodrack.com

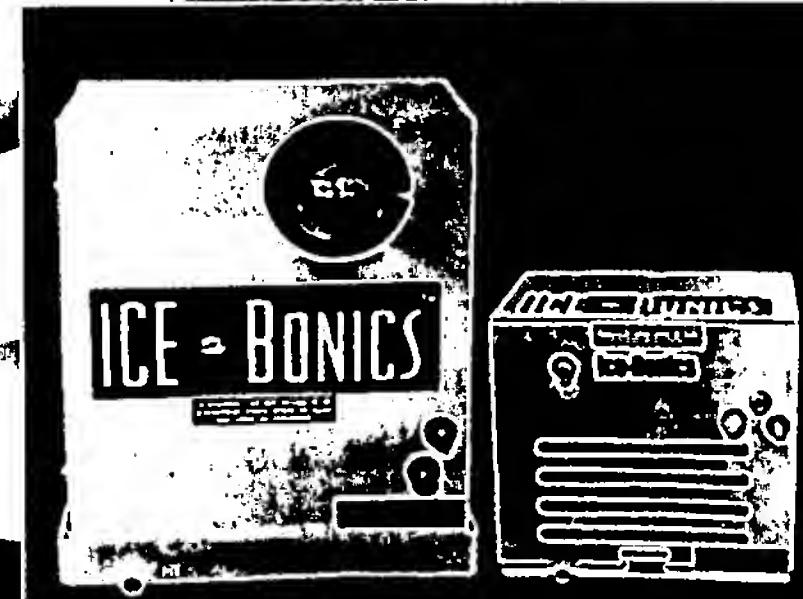


I'M GONNA BLAST THOSE CLOGS RIGHT OUTTA MY BOAT -

Fishing can be messy business. This is especially true if the fish was cleaned where it shouldn't have been, and its guts went down the wrong drain. The BlastItOut Clog-Clearing and Flushing Kit uses pressurized water from a boat's fresh or raw water system or a dockside water supply to safely and easily push line obstructions out of the way without harsh chemicals. In addition to sink drains, it works on clogged raw water inlet and discharge lines, waste lines, and more. It's especially useful when restarting a system that hasn't been used for a while. The five sealing stoppers provided work with most common pipes, hoses, and other openings. \$30. Itex, Inc.; (941) 268-1469; www.blastitout.com

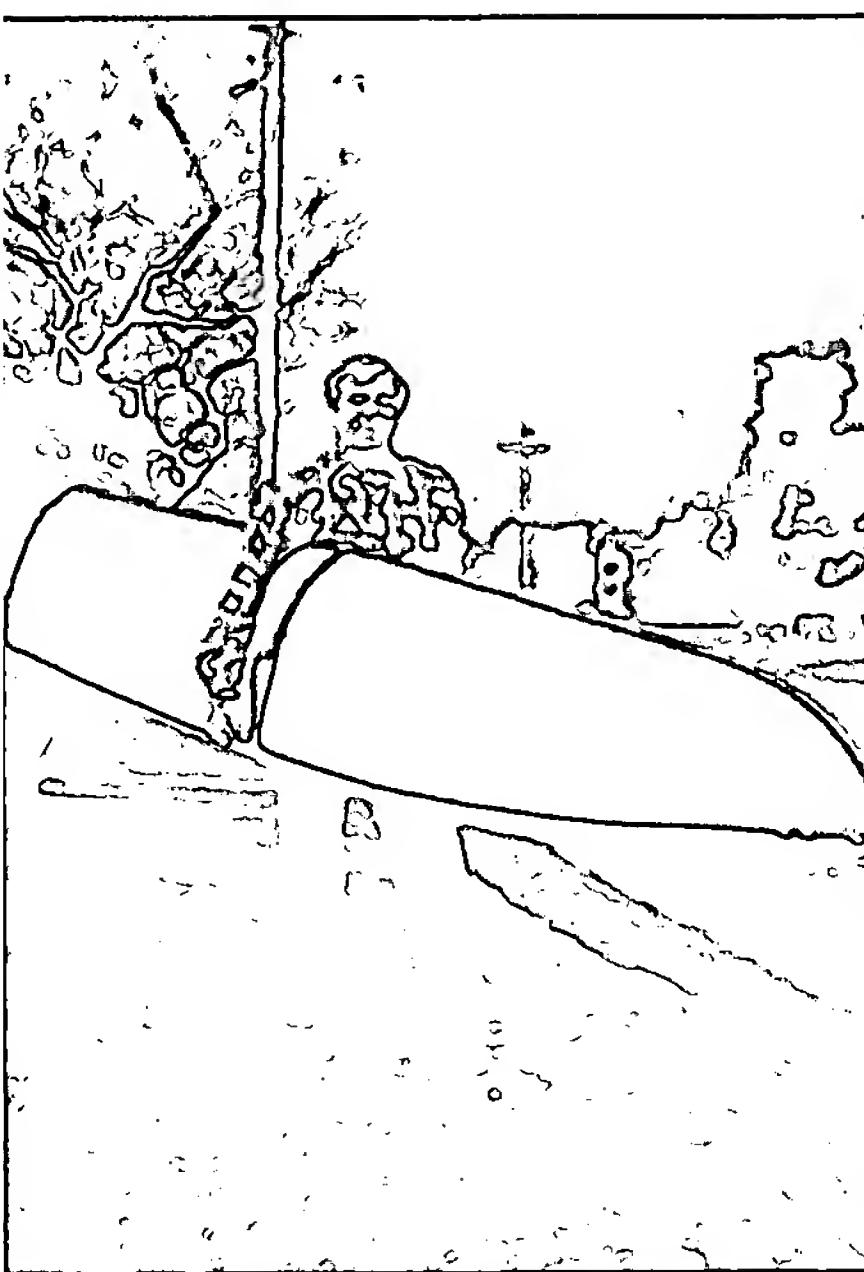
ICE, ICE BABY -

If only their icemaker hadn't failed in *The Perfect Storm*, George Clooney and his crew would have been able to stay where they were without worry of losing their hard-won catch, and perhaps avoided disaster. Well, maybe that's a bit of a dramatic reason to have a high-output quick-demand ice maker on board, but bluewater anglers and lots of ice do go together. The IB400F from Ice-Bonics provides a fast, continuous supply of crushed ice with a minimal 2.5 gallons per hour water consumption to repeatedly fill your drink box or fish box at a rate of up to 500 lbs. of ice every 24 hours. \$8,500. Ice-Bonics; (631) 956-3456; www.icebonics.com



FISHING IS BETTER IN THE DAYLIGHT, EVEN AT NIGHT -

Lights attract fish. It's that simple. There's got to be a better way, however, than the old fashioned Coleman-lantern-hung-over-the-side-of-a-Johnboat, you think; and there is. Underwater Lights' small xenon light uses bulbs that offer maximum brightness, resistance to vibration-induced damage, and last up to 6,000 lamp hours, which is very good as you wouldn't want to have to be crawling around below regularly to change bulbs. These UL Marine Mark rated lights meet U.S. regulations as well as ABYC and NFPA Safety Standards. They come in handy on night dives as well. \$1,065. Underwater Lights; (954) 760-4447; www.underwaterlightsusa.com



Solid, foldable boat ready in minutes

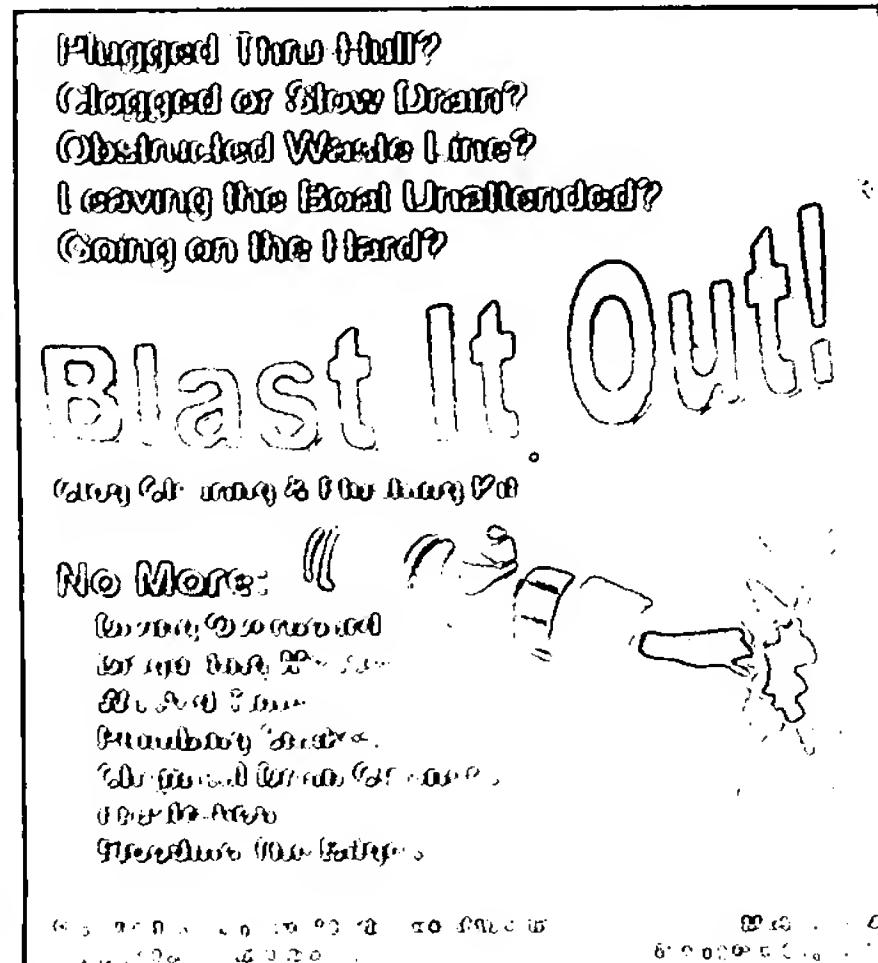
PORTA-BOTE

Whether you need a portable boat to get out on the lake, as a way to get to shore, or as a life saver in an emergency, the Porta-Bote may be a better solution than an inflatable raft.

The Porta-Bote is a solid polypropylene streamlined hull that goes from a four-inch thick folded surfboard shape to a two-, three-, or four-seat boat in minutes. The folded shape can easily be strapped to the side or roof of a recreational vehicle or an out-of-the-way spot on your larger boat.

With a hardened motor mount, the Porta-Bote can carry up to an 80-pound motor for enough power to get you out to the fish in a hurry. Thanks to the streamlined shape, even a small motor can get you there fast.

Check out www.Porta-Bote.com.



Complete clog-cleaning and flushing kit

BLAST IT OUT

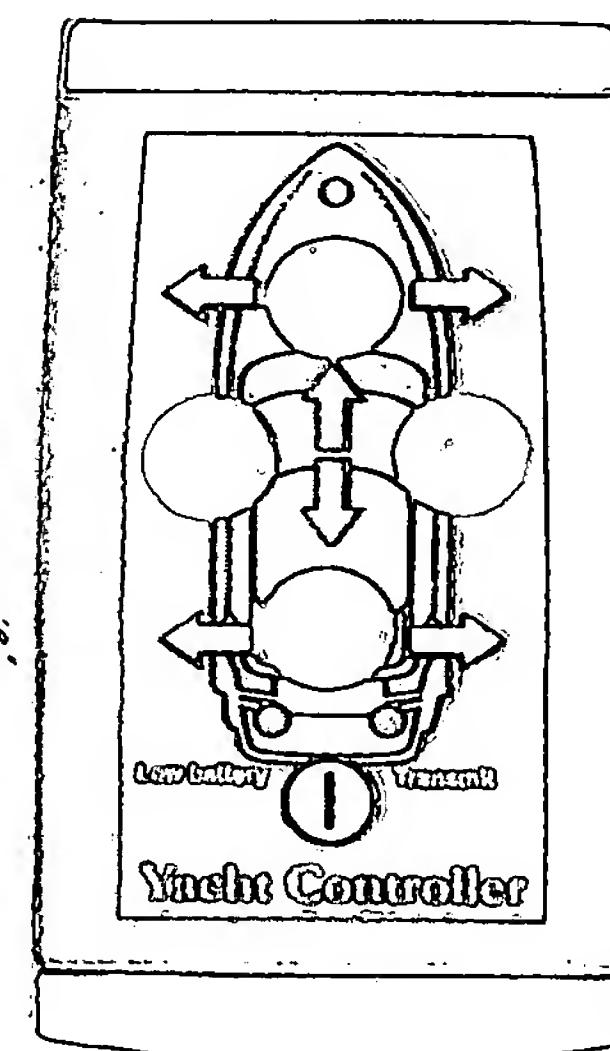
You've got a plugged bilge line. So do you call the Ghostbusters? How about the

plumber you use at home? Maybe whoever maintains your boat at the marina?

The simpler, quicker, and more reusable way to take care of the problem may be a product called Blast It Out. Using a regular water hose with Blast It Out's high pressure head and one of the specially sized plugs, you can clear any kind of line in a few seconds.

To show the variety of applications, the company says blockages can be cleared from raw water inlet lines, waste lines, sinks or drains, engine and generator raw water lines, discharge lines, or after lengthy storage. Blast It Out is a complete system for flushing and clearing obstructions and clogs on marine vessels.

Go to www.BlastItOut.com for more information.



Remote control maneuvering YACHT CONTROLLER

You've got the wide screen television, the VCR, and the DVD on board. You can tell because the remotes are all there with the cell phone, laptop, and GPS. But what's missing here?

Well, of course. It's the remote control for the yacht.

In case you've been seeking that missing link, contact the people at Yacht Controller, Inc., immediately.

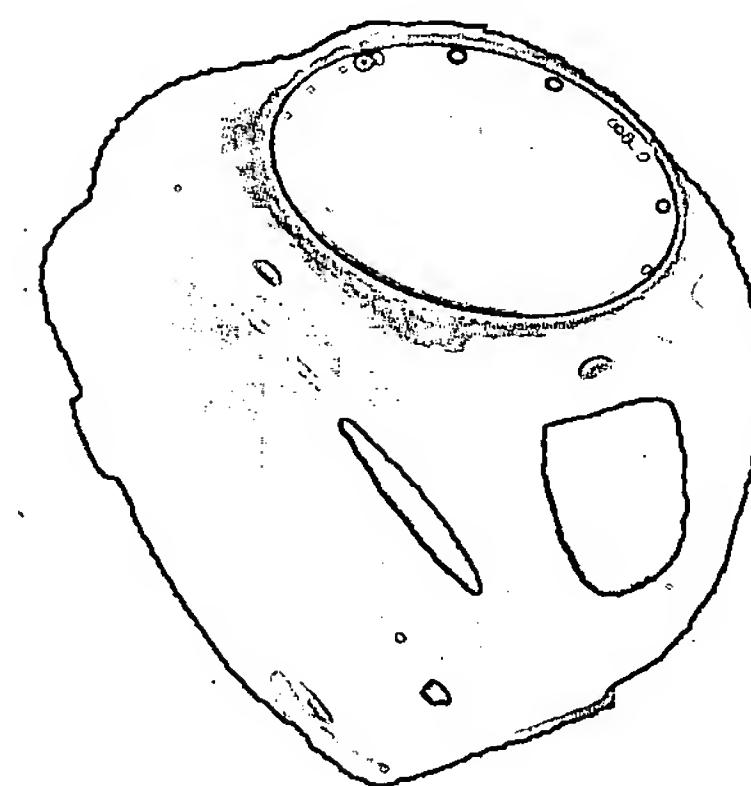
Actually, the Yacht Controller by Marelux can be a vital link with a boat's forward and reverse engine controls (and forward and aft thrusters if installed) to give you complete control of a boat's movements in any direction. Mounted on a wrist or lanyard, this allows you to stand anywhere on the boat to control movements in tight situations often found in ports or marinas. The controller allows you to keep your hands free to help with ropes.

The Yacht Controller also allows you to remotely control the movements of the

anchor speed and direction (up or down) to correctly position your boat for mooring.

Being in position to see other vessels, docks, and people, can prevent damage and, potentially, even injury.

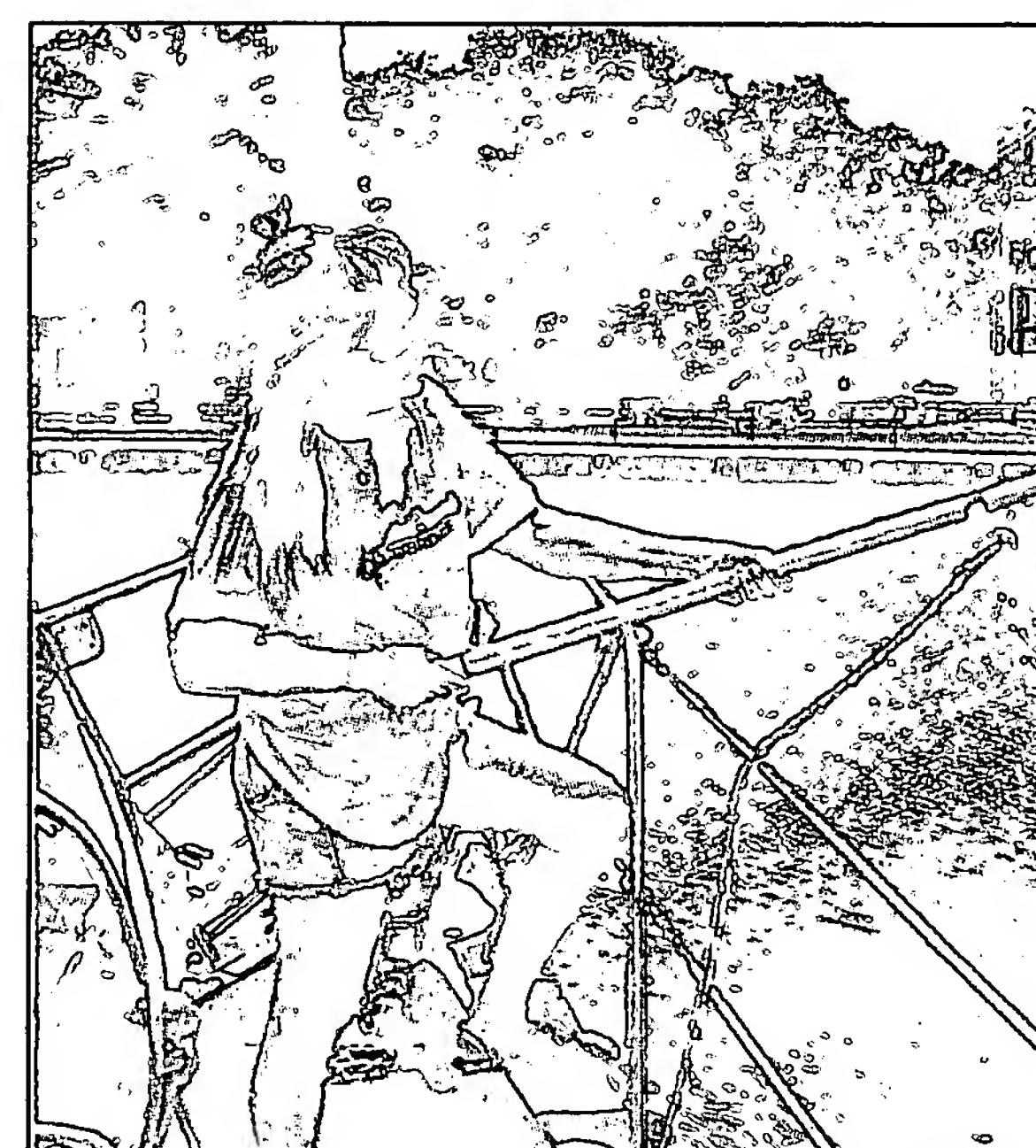
If you are interested, contact Marelux at 954-463-2838 or visit www.marelux.net.



Cutting-edge dive computer/watch MARES NEMO

The Mares Nemo is a cutting-edge dive computer and an elegant watch. It's the best in both worlds. Nemo is the most complete dive computer-watch in the world, offering all functions for dives with or without decompression. It features a Swiss-made case and mechanical components that offer maximum reliability and functional precision. It features four dive modes: Air, Nitrox, Bottom Time, and Free-Dive (the special freediving function), to satisfy the most demanding divers. The Nemo is extremely simple and intuitive.

It has easy access to all functions, both as a watch and as a dive computer. It is available at any World Watersports store for \$499.99.



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SEA-DOO

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James Bon
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that is. Ma
the beautif
the real dr

If you a
you could
Austin-Ma
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used to ge
Thunderba

A comp
volt perso
ing or divi



Mike Buchanan <itexinc@gmail.com>

[BlastItOut]Form Submittal

1 message

BlastItOut Form Data <anonymous@formmail.com>

Sun, Apr 29, 2007 at 8:36
PM

To: mike buchanan <itexinc@gmail.com>

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by BlastItOut Form Data () on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 20:36:30

Name: Milt Baker

Email: bluewater@ocens.net

Address: 1301 River Reach Dr. #502

City: Fort Lauderdale

State: FL

Zip: 33315

Telephone: 954-610-5193

ContactBy: Email

Comment: I would like to buy 10 of your Blast-It-Out kits to include for the 10 Nordhavn motor yachts going on Med Bound 2007, of which I am the organizer. As one of the organizers of the Nordhavn Atlantic Rally in 2004, I was pleased to include your kit in our welcome package for skippers, and everyone really liked them. Can you give me a package price on 10 for Med Bound 2007? More on our rally at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MedBound2007/>

Thanks,

--Milt Baker, Med Bound 2007 organizer

submit: Send

Mike Buchanan <itexinc@gmail.com>

[BlastItOut]Form Submittal

1 message

BlastItOut Form Data <form@blastitout.com>

Thu, Sep 14, 2006 at 8:41 PM

To: info_form@blastitout.com

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
BlastItOut Form Data (form@blastitout.com) on Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 20:41:51

Name: Miles Curry

Email: Miles.curry@verizon.net

State: FL

Telephone: 72 804 6221

ContactBy: Telephone

Comment: Hi There,

We have and love your product! Serving as Cruise Chairman of Clearwater Yacht Club; I'm considering giving your product as gifts to all Cruisers at our annual Christmas Party. Looking at possibly 30-40 kits; and, naturally need a major discount. Shipped in bulk to one address. Give me a call or email to discuss.

Thank You!

Miles Curry
727 804 6221

submit: Send



Mike Buchanan <itexinc@gmail.com>

[BlastItOut]Form Submittal

1 message

<>

Tue, Aug 15, 2006 at 10:57 AM

To: info@blastitout.com

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 10:57:20

Name: Bill Finkelstein

Email: bill@raptordance.com

Address: 6584 Birch Drive

City: Santa Rosa

State: CA

Zip: 95404

Telephone: 707 478 7945

ContactBy: Email

Comment: Hello! Do you want a distributor in Mexico? I've got requests from 5 of my friends to bring Blast-it-outs with us when we return to Mexico.

We'll be leaving in 2 weeks to head South. Can you get them to us by then?

Also, for future requests, do you ship to Mexico?

We had great success with the unit we bought from you 2 years ago. see:
<http://raptordance.blogspot.com/2005/04/bahia-los-muertos.html> for one of our more interesting stories.

Great product! Thanks for distributing it!

Regards,
Bill Finkelstein

submit: Send



Mike Buchanan <itexinc@gmail.com>

[BlastItOut]Form Submittal

1 message

<>

Sat, Mar 11, 2006 at 2:58 PM

To: info@blastitout.com

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 13:58:15

Name: Ange Boudle

Email: wendy@mypentagon.com

Address: 3710 Beechwood Dr

City: Holiday

State: Florida

Zip: 34691

Telephone: 727-687-9775

ContactBy: Telephone

Comment: Borrowed from a friend and it works great!

submit: Send
